



# City of Richmond

## Special Meeting Minutes

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

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Monday, August 10, 2020

4:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall  
Virtual Meeting

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### **Councilmembers Present**

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille, President  
The Honorable Chris Hilbert, Vice President  
The Honorable Andreas Addison  
The Honorable Kim Gray  
The Honorable Michael Jones  
The Honorable Kristen Larson  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch  
The Honorable Ellen Robertson (late arrival)  
The Honorable Reva Trammell

Council President Cynthia Newbille called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m., and presided.

### **ELECTRONIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

City Clerk Candice Reid, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. City Clerk Reid stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on July 29, 2020, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Monday, August 10, 2020, were provided to Council members. Ms. Reid indicated that members of the public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

### **CITIZEN SPEAKER GUIDELINES**

Upon the President's request, Deputy City Clerk RJ Warren provided citizen speaker guidelines.

### **PAPERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**The following ordinance was considered:**

#### **ORD. 2020-156**

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to enter into the Twenty-Third Commercial Area Revitalization Effort Program Cooperation Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Economic Development Authority of the City of Richmond for the purpose of providing for the operation of the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort ("CARE") Program and a business recovery grant program.

Leonard Sledge, Department of Economic Development director, provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-156.

*Councilor Kim Gray inquired how an additional \$500,000.00 was identified to provide funding for the Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (CARE) Program. Councilor Gray also requested an update regarding distribution of CARES Act funding to local businesses.*

*Councilor Ellen Robertson joined the meeting at 4:10 p.m.*

Mr. Sledge informed Council that through the CARE Program, local businesses previously received CARE Program loans. Mr. Sledge stated the repayment of the previous loans with added interest provided the newly identified funding for the CARE Program. Mr. Sledge also stated that unused allocated CARE Program funding from previous years rolled over into CARE Program funding currently available.

*Councilor Ellen Robertson stated she was concerned that the practice of providing CARE Program funding to businesses outside of CARE designated areas would continue the disenfranchisement of certain areas of the city.*

*Councilor Gray stated she was concerned about the ongoing potential of additional social unrest causing damage to local businesses. Councilor Gray also stated CARE funding should be distributed as soon as possible to assist local businesses.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-156 was adopted:** Ayes 7, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes 2, Jones, Robertson.

**The following ordinances were considered:**

ORD. 2020-157

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-2, which designates the location for the central absentee voter election district in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for the central absentee voter election district.

ORD. 2020-158

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 203.

ORD. 2020-159

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 206.

ORD. 2020-160

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 207.

ORD. 2020-161

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 412.

ORD. 2020-162

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to relocate and establish a new polling place for Precinct 702.

ORD. 2020-163

To amend and reordain City Code § 9-58, which assigns polling places in the city, to establish two satellite polling places for in-person absentee voting.

*Vice President Chris Hilbert provided additional information regarding ORD. 2020-157, and stated he was working with city administration, the Greater Richmond Transit Center (GRTC) and*

*City Registrar Kirk Showalter, regarding increased access to the proposed central absentee voter election district.*

City Registrar Kirk Showalter stated the central absentee voter election district required a new location due to the need for additional office space necessary to handle absentee voting. City Registrar Showalter also stated that the multiple proposed ordinances addressing voter precinct changes were necessary due to safety concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Citizens were provided an opportunity to offer comments in writing regarding ORD. 2020-157, ORD. 2020-158, ORD. 2020-159, ORD. 2020-160, ORD. 2020-161, ORD. 2020-162 and ORD. 2020-163, prior to the Special City Council meeting. All written comments received by the Office of the City Clerk were provided to members of the Council prior to the meeting and are included as an appendix to the August 10, 2020 Special City Council meeting minutes.

### **Public Hearing**

***Susan Swecker, Democratic Party of Virginia chairwoman***, spoke in support of ORD. 2020-163, and stated it was imperative to make sure citizens have the ability to vote in a safe and secure manner. Ms. Swecker requested that Council consider adding even more satellite voting locations than the two referenced in ORD. 2020-163.

*Councilor Kim Gray provided additional information regarding the location change of Precinct 206, referenced in ORD. 2020-159.*

*Councilor Kristen Larson provided additional information regarding the location change of Precinct 412, referenced in ORD. 2020-161.*

*President Cynthia Newbille provided additional information regarding the location change of Precinct 702, referenced in ORD. 2020-162.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-157, ORD. 2020-158, ORD. 2020-159, ORD. 2020-160, ORD. 2020-161, ORD. 2020-162 and ORD. 2020-163 were unanimously adopted.**

### **The following ordinance was considered:**

#### **ORD. 2020-164**

To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to submit an amended Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as an application for the receipt of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) funds, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds; to accept funds from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the total amount of \$6,184,226.00; and to appropriate \$6,184,226.00 for various projects.

Daniel Mouer, Department of Housing and Community Development project development manager, provided an introduction of ORD. 2020-164.

There were no further comments or discussions and **ORD. 2020-164 was unanimously adopted.**

**The following resolution was considered:**

RES. 2020-R050

To approve the City of Richmond Plan of Services under the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act.

Dawn Barber, Department of Justice Services director, provided additional information regarding RES. 2020-R050.

*Councilor Kristen Larson inquired why expedited consideration of the proposed resolution was requested at the July 27, 2020 Formal Council meeting, and why no one was available from city administration to provide information regarding RES. 2020-R050.*

Ms. Barber stated the ordinance and resolution request for RES. 2020-R050 was submitted on July 23, 2020, and that the plan referenced in RES. 2020-R050 was recently adopted by the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. Ms. Barber also stated that due to a communication error she was unavailable to participate in the July 27, 2020 Formal Council meeting.

*Councilor Larson suggested additional efforts be made to provide meeting participation instructions to city agencies that do not regularly appear before Council.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R050 was adopted:** Ayes 8, Jones, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Robertson was excused.

**MOTION TO AMEND**

**Councilor Andreas Addison moved that the resolution entitled:**

RES. 2020-R046

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be prepared and submitted to the Council Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee a quarterly report that provides certain data relevant to the City's five civil asset forfeiture special funds for the purpose of increased oversight of the sources and uses of civil asset forfeiture special funds.

**be amended and considered as follows:**

Page 1, Line 5

After the word "Committee", strike the text "a quarterly" and insert the text "an annual"

Page 2, Line 11

After the word "that", strike the word "quarterly" and insert the word "annual"

Page 2, Line 18

After the word "Committee", strike the text "quarterly reports" and insert the text "an annual report"

Page 2, Line 19

After the word "that", strike the word "summarize" and insert the word "summarizes"

Page 3, Line 2

After the word "Richmond", strike the parenthetical year "(2019)" and insert the parenthetical year "(2020)"

After the word "beginning", strike the text "with the sixth week after the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year commencing July 1" and insert the date "October 31"

Page 3, Line 3

After the word “and”, strike the text “ending June 30, 2021, and by no later than the sixth week after the closing of”

Page 3, Line 4

After the word “each”, strike the word “quarter” and insert the date “October 31”

Page 4, Line 1

After the word “The” immediately following the item number “5,” strike the word “proposed”

**The motion was seconded and approved:** Ayes 7, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. No None. Abstentions 1, Jones. Robertson was excused. RES. 2020-R046, as amended was considered.

*Councilor Michael Jones provided additional information regarding RES. 2020-R046, and stated the proposed resolution provided much needed oversight over civil asset forfeitures.*

### **Public Hearing**

**Allan-Charles Chipman** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R046, but he stated the data referenced in the proposed resolution should be submitted quarterly rather than annually. Mr. Chipman requested that additional statistics not addressed in RES. 2020-R046 be required.

Commonwealth Attorney Colette McEachin addressed Council and provided additional information regarding civil asset forfeitures. Commonwealth Attorney McEachin informed Council of the process of distributing funds collected through civil asset forfeitures.

*Councilor Michael Jones inquired how the annual report referenced by Commonwealth Attorney McEachin could be accessed and shared.*

*President Cynthia Newbille requested that Commonwealth Attorney McEachin provide the annual report to Council.*

*Councilor Ellen Robertson requested the annual report be provided to allow Council the opportunity to determine if current oversight of civil asset forfeitures was sufficient. Councilor Robertson inquired if Council could obtain copies of previous annual reports.*

Acting Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Lenora Reid stated city administration receives the report annually. Acting CAO Reid also stated that city administration would present information before the Finance and Economic Development Standing Committee regarding the requested information.

There were no further comments or discussions and **RES. 2020-R046 was adopted:** Ayes 8, Robertson, Larson, Lynch, Gray, Trammell, Addison, Hilbert, Newbille. Noes None. Abstentions 1, Jones.

*President Cynthia Newbille requested to be added as a co-patron of RES. 2020-R046.*

## **INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION**

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinances on Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.:**

### **ORD. 2020-183**

To extend the expiration date of Ord. No. 2020-093, adopted Apr. 9, 2020, which assures the continuity of government during the disaster resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying the

practices and procedures of public bodies to permit electronic meetings as authorized by Va. Code § 15.2-1413, from Sept. 12, 2020, to Dec. 31, 2020.

*Patron: President Newbille*

**This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).**

ORD. 2020-184

To amend and reordain City Code § 19-334.1, which prohibits the carrying of firearms within certain places, to modify the nature and extent of the firearms and prohibited places subject to inclusion as permitted by Va. Code § 15.2-915.

*Patron: Mayor Stoney*

**This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(2).**

ORD. 2020-185

To accept an additional \$20,104,653.00 from the Commonwealth of Virginia's allocations of monies from the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund, to transfer \$20,104,653.00 from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' COVID-19 Relief Special Fund, to amend the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Budget by appropriating \$40,209,306.00 to a new program in the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and to repeal Ord. No. 2020-133, adopted Jun. 22, 2020, all for the purpose of funding necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Patron: Mayor Stoney*

**This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).**

**City Council will hold a public hearing on the following ordinance on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.:**

ORD. 2020-186

To amend Ord. No. 2020-053, adopted May 11, 2020, which appropriated and provided funds for financing the school budget for the fiscal year commencing Jul. 1, 2020, and ending Jun. 30, 2021, by decreasing estimated revenues from various sources.

*Patron: Mayor Stoney*

**This ordinance was introduced and committee referral waived pursuant to Rule VI(B)(3)(c).**

*President Cynthia Newbille inquired if Police Chief William Smith was available to address Council regarding information he provided Council prior to the meeting.*

Police Chief Smith informed Council that the Richmond Police Department (RPD) was in the process of reviewing RPD's budget. Chief Smith stated the review process would be completed in 12 weeks.

*President Newbille informed Council that the Office of the Council Chief of Staff provided members with information regarding the timeline for receiving and evaluating offers regarding the disposition of certain statues in the city.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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CITY CLERK

**From:** [Rachel Williard](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** In support 2020-ord 163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 7:58:34 AM

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CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

I am writing in support of 2020-ORD 163, which will provide better access to absentee voting. This is so important to provide fair access to those without cars. Thank you!

Rachel Williard  
1st district

**From:** [Alexandra Sward](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** ORD. 2020-163 Public Comment  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 7:58:41 AM

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Hello,

I support ORD. 2020-163 as a means of making vote by mail more accessible. Not only do our most disenfranchised citizens rely on public transport (which is reason enough to not put the only ballot drop-off in an area only accesible by car), but the extreme DMV delays due to the pandemic means that a significant number of other citizens are now without access to a car. I am one of those people. Please take this easy measure to ensure that voting is accessible and encouraged, rather than keeping it behind massive barriers for the "average" citizen.

Thank you,  
Alix Sward  
Museum District

**From:** [Paige Hausburg](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** ORD 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:02:37 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing in support of ORD 2020-16, which will create a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall for two weeks before the November election.

Thank you,

Paige Hausburg  


Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Peter Henry](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** support for ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:17:02 AM

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Hello!

I am writing to register my support for ORD. 2020-163, which will be considered by Council this coming Monday.

Thank you.

Peter Henry  


**From:** [Kim Gomez](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Please create absentee voting  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:17:06 AM

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Please make this be as easy to get to as possible, the satellite in person drop off by city hall should happen and be replicated in as many places across the city as possible ( especially in high poverty/ low access to car transit).

Thank you,  
Kim Gomez  
Resident of 1st district

**From:** [timshe188@gmail.com](mailto:timshe188@gmail.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Support for ord2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:45:35 AM

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I'm writing to support Ord. 2020-163 to create a satellite in-person absentee polling place at city hall.

Thank you

Timshel Purdum



Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Derrick Gregory](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** ORD. 2020-163 - Full support  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 8:48:56 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Please consider me, Derrick Gregory, resident of the city of Richmond in the 1st district ( [REDACTED] ) a full and complete supporter of this ordinance.

<https://richmondva.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4602070&GUID=F0882AC5-6A11-4BA3-814C-FA007282A42A&Options=&Search=>

The pandemic will greatly affect this election, and while the fact that the Registrar's office is moving will hurt folks's ability to register and vote absentee, this is the next best thing. Please make this happen.

thank you,

--

**Derrick D. Gregory**

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Jes G](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Ord. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:10:56 AM

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Good morning.

I am writing to ask for your support of Ord. 2020-163. With the uncertainties of COVID-19, more people than usual will be requesting absentee ballots for this November's election. The new location of the City's Office of the Registrar is not centrally located, nor is it easily accessible by public transit. Therefore, Richmond needs a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall for at least two weeks before November 3rd.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

Jessica Greene

**From:** [erica](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** In Person Absentee Voting Location  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:25:26 AM

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Hello,

Im writing to express support for a temporary location in City Hall for people to cast their absentee ballots. I'm in favor of ORD. [2020-163](#) and hope that it passes so that more people have easily accessible places to vote in this important upcoming election.

Many thanks,  
Erica

**From:** [Jeremy Hoffman](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:28:56 AM

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Hi,

I am in full support of [ORD. 2020-163](#), which will create a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall for two weeks before the November election.

Thank you,

--

**Jeremy S. Hoffman, Ph.D.**

"Our species needs, and deserves, a citizenry with minds wide awake and a basic understanding of how the world works." - Carl Sagan

**From:** [Halloran, Daniel](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#); [Patterson, Samuel - City Council Office](#); [Newbille, Cynthia I. - City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Mayor Levar Stoney](#); [Addison, Andreas D. - City Council](#); [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Hilbert, Chris A. - City Council](#); [Larson, Kristen N. - City Council](#); [Lynch, Stephanie A. - City Council Office](#); [Robertson, Ellen F. - City Council](#); [Trammell, Reva M. - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** We NEED a Satellite Registrar's Office (ORD. 2020-163)  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:32:24 AM

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Good morning,

I want to quickly implore you to approve ORD. 2020-163 to create a satellite registrar's office in the weeks leading up to the important Presidential election in November. In fact, a satellite location more accessible to the general public should be considered as a permanent installation.

The Registrar's move to Laburnum out in the West End fully disenfranchises certain voters from easily accessing the physical office to register to vote, request and submit an absentee ballot, etc. Many low-income voters do not have cars to travel all the way out there. The West End is a high-income area, far away from Richmond's pockets of concentrated poverty. Frankly, the move is veiled voter suppression.

We should make it as easy as possible for people to vote, but by relocating the City's main voting office to a barely-accessible-by-public-transportation area of the city, just months before the most consequential election of the century, is disgraceful and warrants -- no demands! -- a solution for folks who are eager to participate.

Thank you for your consideration of this ordinance.

All the best,  
Dan Halloran

[REDACTED]

--

Dan Halloran  
He/Him/His

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Patricia Loyde](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office; Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Registrar's office move and ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:34:41 AM

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All,

I want to express my disappointment with the move the Registrar's office is making from City Hall downtown, to a very inaccessible location on Laburnum Ave. Unless a city resident has a car, there is no easy, efficient way to get to this new location - by bus, bicycle, or on foot, like there is at City Hall. While I understand your need for more space, for the increase in staff, storage and the strong likelihood of skyrocketing absentee voting this coming November, it will make it very hard for many of our city residents to drop off those absentee ballots in person. That drop-off scenario is becoming more and more likely with the news that the US Postal Service will struggle on their end with the expected increased volume of mail-in ballots, all amidst the continuing pandemic.

I'm glad that ORD. 2020-163 has been introduced, which will supply the city with 2 Satellite Voting offices - one back at City Hall and another on the Southside of the James River. It's unfortunate that they can only be open the 2 weeks prior to Election Day and not the full drop-off time allowed, but I understand that timing is an issue due to state-imposed limitations.

All this is to say that **ORD. 2020-163 is very important under the current circumstances and I fully support its passing on August 10th.** This is a vote that cannot be continued, because time is running short.

Thank you,  
Patricia Loyde  
Fan Resident  
[REDACTED]

**Patty Loyde**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mary-Helen Sullivan](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Ord.2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 10:52:07 AM

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Dear City Clerk,

I am writing in support of this ordinance, which would create a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall for the two weeks prior to election day (11/3).

I also wish to express my displeasure at the planned move of the city's Office of the General Registrar from City Hall to Laburnum Avenue, which has poor access by any mode. We need to make voting easier, not harder!

Thank you for your attention.

Mary-Helen Sullivan



**From:** [Kathey Moore](#)  
**To:** [Gray, Kimberly B. - City Council](#); [Bieber, Craig K. - City Council Office](#); [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Moving the Registrar's office  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 11:23:59 AM

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Dear Councilwoman Gray,

I want to express my disappointment with the move the Registrar's office is making from City Hall downtown, to a very inaccessible location on Laburnum Ave. Unless a city resident has a car, there is no easy, efficient way to get to this new location - by bus, bicycle, or on foot, like there is at City Hall. While I understand your need for more space, for the increase in staff, storage and the strong likelihood of skyrocketing absentee voting this coming November, it will make it very hard for many of our city residents to drop off those absentee ballots in person. That drop-off scenario is becoming more and more likely with the news that the US Postal Service will struggle on their end with the expected increased volume of mail-in ballots, all amidst the continuing pandemic.

I'm glad that ORD. [2020-163](#) has been introduced, which will supply the city with 2 Satellite Voting offices - one back at City Hall and another on the Southside of the James River. It's unfortunate that they can only be open the 2 weeks prior to Election Day and not the full drop-off time allowed, but I understand that timing is an issue due to state-imposed limitations.

All this is to say that **ORD. [2020-163](#) is very important under the current circumstances and I fully support its passing on August 10th.** This is a vote that cannot be continued, because time is running short.

Thank you,  
Kathey Homer Moore



**From:** [Stephanie Theofanos](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Voter Registrar Ofgice  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 12:05:51 PM

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Hi - I'm writing to say that I am opposed to the move to Laburnum and hope that you reconsider. If not, please consider opening an office at City Hall between now and November 3.

Thank you.

Stephanie Theofanos  
Resident, City of Richmond

**From:** [Hunter Hewlett](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 12:38:47 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Hunter Hewlett and I am a 7th District Richmond Resident. I am emailing today to express my full support of ORD. 2020-163.

I believe accessibility to our local institutions is always important, but it's never been more vital than during a global pandemic and an election year. Moving the City's Registrar office out of City Hall and across the city will surely decrease accessibility for those without cars. We should strive to be a City that prioritizes citizens and accessibility over car culture. The least the City can do is maintain a satellite Registrar's office at City Hall for people to drop off absentee ballots and more. For this reason, I support ORD. 2020-163.

Thank you for your time,

Hunter Hewlett



**From:** [Stuart Ruiz](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Ord. No. 2020-163  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 3:45:49 PM

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Hello Clerk's Office,

My name is Stuart Ruiz and am a resident of Richmond, VA. I am writing to express my support for [Ord. No. 2020-163](#) to establish two satellite polling places for in-person absentee voting. With the General Registrar moving to a location that is virtually inaccessible by both walking and public transportation, I believe it is vitally important to take these measures to ensure voting is accessible to all. Thank you for your time,

Stuart Ruiz

**From:** [Cindi](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Satellite Registrar's Office  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 6:37:06 PM

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I am in favor of keeping a satellite Registrar's office open in City Hall. I have used this office to vote for three years now and I would prefer not to have to find and drive to the new location.

thank you!

Cynthia Cobbs  


**From:** [Nikki Rovner](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Support ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Saturday, August 1, 2020 4:47:42 PM

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I support the creation of a satellite absentee ballot drop-off site at City Hall and encourage the members of city council to enact this ordinance.

Nikki Rovner



**From:** [Elliott Kurtz](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Support ORD. 2020-163  
**Date:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:47:37 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to express support of ORD. 2020-163 to create a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall. Given the importance of the November election, the dangers posed by the COVID-19 epidemic, and the announcement that the Office of the General Registrar will move to a new location on Laburnum Ave which is not readily accessible by public transit, having a centrally located in-person dropoff is crucial for promoting equitable voting. In fact, I would ask that even more of these locations be considered.

Thanks you for your time,

Elliott Kurtz,  


**From:** [Jennifer Grogan](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Cc:** [jennifer.grogan](#)  
**Subject:** satellite voting offices  
**Date:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 12:32:48 PM

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Dear Ms. Reid,

I was dismayed to learn that the Registrar's Office is being moved from City Hall. It was so wonderfully convenient there, as well as being so accessible via the Pulse.

I would very much hope that you establish satellite voting offices for absentee voting before this year's election. Going out to the new Laburnum location is just not feasible for a lot of people. So please establish satellite offices around the city (and in city hall) for at least two weeks prior to the election. Better still, please decide not to move the office. Reconsideration of a bad decision can make for a good one.

Thank you.

Jennifer and John Grogan  
Richmond, VA

**From:** [Allie W](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 2020-163  
**Date:** Sunday, August 2, 2020 4:01:57 PM

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Hi there,

My name is Allison Wine. I'm a Richmond 7th district resident and I would like to voice my support of opening a satellite in-person absentee polling place at City Hall, as proposed in Ordinance 2020-163.

Thank you,  
Allison Wine

**From:** [Elaine Goodall](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
**Subject:** Registrar office move  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 11:24:09 AM

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Good morning,

I want to express my disappointment with the move the Registrar's office is making from City Hall downtown, to a very inaccessible location on Laburnum Ave. Unless a city resident has a car, there is no easy, efficient way to get to this new location - by bus, bicycle, or on foot, like there is at City Hall. While I understand your need for more space, for the increase in staff, storage and the strong likelihood of skyrocketing absentee voting this coming November, it will make it very hard for many of our city residents to drop off those absentee ballots in person. That drop-off scenario is becoming more and more likely with the news that the US Postal Service will struggle on their end with the expected increased volume of mail-in ballots, all amidst the continuing pandemic.

I'm glad that ORD. 2020-163 has been introduced, which will supply the city with 2 Satellite Voting offices - one back at City Hall and another on the Southside of the James River. It's unfortunate that they can only be open the 2 weeks prior to Election Day and not the full drop-off time allowed, but I understand that timing is an issue due to state-imposed limitations.

All this is to say that **ORD. 2020-163 is very important under the current circumstances and I fully support its passing on August 10th.**  
This is a vote that cannot be continued, because time is running short.

Elaine Goodall

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Elaine Goodall  
